

ROY EVANS



Memorial Match

HEREFORD UNITED

versus

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

In aid of the Mayor of Hereford's Fund for
the families of Roy Evans and Brian Purcell



BRIAN PURCELL

Programme 6d.

Brian Purcell and Roy Evans, who were so tragically killed in a road accident when on their way to Hereford to play in a cup match at Nuneaton on Monday, January 20, 1969, joined Hereford United from Swansea Town after touring Rhodesia with the club last summer. Brian had not missed a first team match up until the time of his death, and Roy had only been absent once. Both made their mark in League football before linking up with United.

BRIAN PURCELL: Swansea-born and a product of local football he signed for his home town club in June 1958 but did not make his debut for Swansea Town, who were then in the Second Division, until 1962. During the 1963-64 season he was a member of Swans' successful cup team who swept into the semi-final of the F.A. Cup with wins over First Division opponents Liverpool, Stoke City and Sheffield Wednesday. He was the club's first choice centre-half for the last three seasons when he played in 111 of their 138 league matches. It was only a year ago that he was playing against Arsenal at Vetch Field in a fourth round F.A. Cup match, when Swans were unluckily beaten 1-0. But the fact that Arsenal only scored once was due to Brian's masterly display at centre-half.

ROY EVANS: Swansea born and bred, he linked up with Brian at Vetch Field when he signed for Swansea in July 1960 and within two years had won a regular first team position. In six seasons he made 212 league appearances, and was a member of the successful cup team that just failed to reach Wembley. He played with Brian at Villa Park when Swans were pipped 2-1 by Preston North End, and also gave an outstanding display against Arsenal last season. Another highlight in Roy's career was in April, 1964, when he played for Wales against Ireland on his home town ground to win a full international cap, having previously represented the Welsh under-23 team against Ireland and England. During his early days he was described as "a really class player with a wonderful future." And that class was always evident at Edgar Street.

TRIBUTE FROM JOHN CHARLES

Hereford United Player-Manager

Former Juventus Roma, Leeds United, Cardiff City and Welsh International



When I think back to last summer and remember those care-free, happy days in Rhodesia when Brian and Roy represented Hereford United as guest players during our highly successful tour of that country, I just cannot realise the enormity of what has happened.

I got to know them during that Rhodesian tour when we were living together more as a family than a football team and their professional attitude on the field and the way they readily made friends gave me an added reason for wanting to sign them for Hereford United.

I was naturally delighted when they decided to join the club when we returned to England and our friendship ripened as our cause became a common one. They were first class clubmen, who gave everything they had for the full 90 minutes of every match and always did their utmost to add to the prestige of the club wherever we played.

After a long spell in League football it is often difficult for a player to adjust himself to the different style of Southern League football, and I know that both Roy and Brian were disappointed at times that United had not made the impact in the Premier Division this season that we had hoped for. They had the dedication to win whenever they went onto the field and I feel certain that they would have eventually put us at the top of the table.

Both chose to come to Hereford rather than continue in League football but by their performances when we drew with Torquay in the F.A. Cup, beat Newport County in the Herefordshire Senior Cup and defeated their home town club Swansea Town when our new floodlights were officially opened, they proved that they could still have been holding down a position with a Football League club.

The tragic accident, in foggy conditions, on the Heads of the Valleys road, which has robbed us of Roy and Brian in their prime of life, is something we will never forget, but what we will remember most is their pleasant personalities and the firm bond they forged with the club during their short period at Edgar Street.

I would like to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the Mayor's fund to ensure that their widows will not have any financial worries in the immediate future, and especially the directors, officials and players of Sheffield Wednesday for helping us to stage this memorial game.

Everyone connected with Hereford United extend their deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the two widows, their children and families, on their tragic loss and I can only express the hope that time will prove to be "the great healer" for them all.

THANK YOU-SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY are the third oldest remaining Club in the Football League and in 1967 celebrated their 100th birthday. They have won the F.A. Cup three times, the First Division championship on four occasions and the Second Division title five times.

They last visited Hereford in January, 1958, for a third round F.A. Cup match when a record attendance of 18,500, which remains as Edgar Street's highest gate, saw their First Division side win 3-0.

Wednesday were beaten by Manchester United in the fifth round—a Manchester team that was being re-built after the Munich disaster a month earlier.

Since then Wednesday have reached the semi-final of the Cup in 1960 and the final in 1966, when they were beaten 3-2 by Everton.

PETER SPRINGETT: England under-23 and Youth International. Made over 100 first team appearances for Queens Park Rangers before joining Wednesday last season in an exchange deal with his brother Ron, who was capped 33 times for England while at Sheffield.

WILFRED SMITH: Now in his fourth season as a first team player at Hillsborough, and has played in over 100 First Division games in addition to the 1966 F.A. Cup Final against Everton. Represented Football League last season, and also F.A. Youth team.

DONALD MEGSON: A native of Sale, who has given Wednesday yeoman service. Since he made his senior team debut in 1960-61 he has played in over 300 league games. Only missed 15 games in seven years up to the start of this season. Also played in Cup Final, and is club captain.

SAM ELLIS: Joined Wednesday from local football and played in the Cup Final after only 13 league games. On that occasion he played at centre-half, and has since collected an England under 23 cap, and is also a former Youth International trialist.

VIC MOBLEY: Formerly with Oxford City, has been Wednesday's first choice number five since 1965-66 and has made over 130 league appearances. Played for Football League XI with Smith and John Ritchie when England crushed the Irish 7-2, and has also been capped at under-23 level. Missed Cup Final due to injury.

GERALD YOUNG: One of Wednesday's longest serving players who has played in 200 odd league games during 12 years at Hillsborough. A native of South Shields, he was in the Sheffield Cup Final team and won an England cap against Wales in 1964.

TEAMS

HEREFORD UNITED

LYNN DAVIES
JOHN BIRD
PETER TIMMS
BOBBIE FERGUSON
DAVID SUMMERHAYES
RAY DANIEL
ALAN JONES
ALAN SCARROTT
LEN ALLCHURCH
IVOR ALLCHURCH
TONY WHITE
JOHN CHARLES
ALBERT DERRICK
MICK LEWIS
PADDY MULLEN

Colours: Black & White

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

PETER SPRINGETT
WILF SMITH
DON MEGSON
SAM ELLIS
VIC MOBLEY
GERRY YOUNG
ARCHIE IRVINE
JIM McCALLIOG
JOHN RITCHIE
PETER EUSTACE
BRIAN WOODALL
IAN BRANFOOT
DAVID FORD
JOHN FANTHAM

Colours: Blue and White

Referee: JIM FINNEY (Hereford)

Further Pen Pictures—SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

ARCHIE IRVINE: A £35,000 buy from Airdrie this season, has missed a number of games due to injury.

JIM McCALLIOG: Transferred to Wednesday from Chelsea for £37,500 in October, 1965. He got one of the goals in the 1966 final before Everton hit back to win 3-2. Capped twice for Scotland and is a member of the Scottish World Cup squad.

JOHN RITCHIE: Joined Stoke City from Southern League Club Kettering and moved to Wednesday for a £70,000 fee in November, 1966. Scored 56 goals in 93 league games with Stoke, and last season topped Wednesday's scoring list with 22 league and cup goals.

PETER EUSTACE: In his sixth season with the first team, and has made over 130 league appearances. Also won an F.A. Cup runners-up medal.

BRIAN WOODALL: Aged 19, made nine first team appearances last season, and got two of the goals when Wednesday beat Leeds in this year's F.A. Cup third round tie.

IAN BRANFOOT: Now in his third season bidding for a regular first team spot. Former Association of Boys' Club's International.

DAVID FORD: Another of Wednesday's under-23 Internationals, who is Sheffield born and bred. He also scored in the 1966 Cup Final.

JOHN FANTHAM: At the start of this season he had scored 143 league goals since making his league debut in 1958. He is the club's post-war goal-scoring record holder. Played in Cup Final team and also for England in 1961.

MAYOR WRITES TO TRANSPORT MINISTER

Brian Purcell, aged 28, married with a son aged eight, and Roy Evans, 25, also married with a daughter of three, both lived as near neighbours at Killay, Swansea.

They were on their way to play in a Camkin Cup match at Nuneaton on January 20 when involved in a three-car crash on the Heads of the Valleys road near Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire.

The two players were close friends and travelled together, using each other's cars on alternate journeys, for training and matches at Hereford.

The funeral of the two players took place at Swansea on Friday, January 24, at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Swansea, followed by cremation at Swansea Crematorium, Morrison, when players and officials from Hereford United, Swansea Town and other clubs were represented.

The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Ivor Williams, represented the city at the funeral and made the trip to Swansea on the Heads of the Valleys Road.

Afterwards he stated that he was writing to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Richard Marsh, and all local authorities concerned, complaining about the constant risk drivers took when using the road.

His letter to the Minister said, "I want to impress upon you that driving along the A465 was, for me, a fearful experience and although driving with the utmost care, and never exceeding 50 m.p.h., I felt that an accident could have happened at any moment.

"The reason for this is, that the road is what is commonly called a 'three-lane killer.' Furthermore, it undulates up and down considerably, with the result that one is continually moving into and out of fog and mountain mist."

He added, "The tragedy is that the innocent and careful driver is often the victim of others' foolishness: indeed, I myself, had two narrow escapes."

He has asked the Minister to make an immediate investigation into the safety of three-way highways.

The Mayor launched an appeal on behalf of the players' relatives when Hereford United met Cardiff College of Education in a Welsh Cup match at Edgar Street on January 22, and though the attendance was just over 2,400, over £150 was collected on behalf of the fund at half-time.

A further £50 was donated when Hereford played at Cheltenham last week, and another collection at Edgar Street last Saturday realised over £29.

Members of the Hereford United Junior Supporters' Club staged a four-hour sponsored run before Saturday's match with Poole Town which is expected to boost the fund by a further £100.

TRIBUTES....

The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Ivor Williams: "For a club like Hereford United the loss of Brian Purcell and Roy Evans is a disaster in the nature of "a mini-Munich." Both players were well liked and respected not only by United supporters but by the community at large."

Hereford United chairman, Mr. Bill Humphries: "I regarded Roy and Brian more like friends than players. They were first class men and their tragic demise is a dreadful blow to our club. When I was told the news of the accident just before the end of the game at Nuneaton I just could not believe it. I have had some difficult jobs to do in my time but I think the worst I have ever had was to walk to the dressing room and tell the players about the tragedy. We all extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the players."

Hereford United secretary, Mr. Reg Tidball: "In all my dealings with Roy and Brian I always found them real gentlemen. They were excellent clubmen who will not easily be replaced."

Hereford United Supporters' Club chairman, Mr. Phil Godsall: "This is a dreadful blow to a club like ours. They were both wonderful clubmen, who trained hard, played hard, and gave supporters full value for their money. They were first-class players."

Club captain, Alan Jones: "Brian and Roy were both first team players when I joined Swansea, and they helped me a lot when I played for the club's league team. I was really happy when they decided to come to Hereford this season, and am deeply grieved by what I, and all the team, consider a personal tragedy."

Swansea Town chairman, Mr. Trevor Wood: "We are all very distressed by this tragedy. Brian and Roy were well liked at the Vetch."

Swansea Town manager, Mr. Billy Lucas: "Both Brian and Roy gave wonderful service to Swansea Town. Their loss is a terrible blow to their families and to Hereford. We, as a club, are willing to help in any way we can."

Hereford Times Sports Editor, Mr. Ted Woodriffer: "I had the pleasure of watching both Roy and Brian play quite often for Swansea. I remember how well both played in the F.A. Cup semi-final at Villa Park and also against Arsenal last season. Brian was a competent and unassuming centre-half with a lot of talent. Roy was a dynamic player who stamped his personality on the game by his ability to turn defence into attack. Both had a number of years active soccer in front of them and they will be greatly missed by the many friends they made at Hereford during their association with United."

Hereford United Junior Supporters' Club (The Minstrels), organiser, Mr. Dave Hornsby: "All the young followers of the club have been numbed by this tragedy and have already shown their willingness to help in any way they can. Roy and Brian were both very popular with members of the club, and set a good example of sportsmanship and team spirit to us all."

Thanks . . .

MRS. CAROLE PURCELL and MRS. KAY EVANS, the widows of the two players, wish to thank all those who have expressed their sympathy either personally or by letter in their tragic loss. They have asked the Mayor and club officials to thank the many friends who have contributed to the fund and helped in many other ways.

We wish to thank the Commanding Officer of RAF, Hereford, for allowing the station band to perform at Edgar Street tonight.

Donations to the Mayor of Hereford's Fund for the relatives of Brian Purcell and Roy Evans should be sent to the Town Hall, Hereford. The Mayor thanks all those who have already donated and hopes that supporters will take this opportunity of helping to swell the fund.